



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## COVFefe FINALIZES PREPARATION FOR NEXT SATURDAY'S DOGWOOD STAKES

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Saturday, Sept. 14, 2019)** – LNJ Foxwoods' Grade I-winner **Covfefe** is set for next Saturday's \$125,000 Dogwood Stakes (Listed) at Churchill Downs – likely her final start in advance of the Nov. 2 Breeders' Cup World Championships.

Trained by **Brad Cox**, the strikingly fast 3-year-old sprinter has recorded back-to-back five-furlong bullet workouts as she blazes her path into the Dogwood. The bay filly by Into Mischief cruised five furlongs in :59.40 at 5:30 a.m. (all times Eastern) Friday beneath the Twin Spires.

"Our goal was to get Covfefe a Grade I win and we were able to do just that in the Test," Cox said. "She came back from the race quicker than we originally anticipated. It was such an awesome race that afternoon with two great fillies battling down the lane.

"She's come to Churchill and worked fantastic into the race. This race fits well on the calendar and we don't have to ship her."

Covfefe is expected to be the heavy favorite in the seven-furlong contest for 3-year-old fillies. Prior to Covfefe's hard-fought victory over Longines Kentucky Oaks winner **Serengeti Empress** in the \$500,000 Test, she smashed the six-furlong track record at Pimlico by winning the \$150,000 Miss Preakness Stakes (GIII) by 8 ½ lengths in a final time of 1:07.70 for six furlongs.

**Shaun Bridgmohan** will have the call on Covfefe in the Dogwood.

The Dogwood is the featured event on next Saturday's 11-race program. The race also is expected to include **Istan Council** and **Free Cover**. The race will be drawn Wednesday.

**CLOSING WEEKEND STAKES NOMINATIONS CLOSE SATURDAY** – Nominations to \$250,000 Lukas Classic Presented by Budweiser (Grade III), \$150,000 Ack Ack Presented by GE Appliances (GIII) and \$125,000 Jefferson Cup (Listed) close Saturday.

The Lukas Classic, the marquee race of the Churchill Downs September Meet, is expected to include Stephen Foster (GII) runner-up **Quip**. Trainer **Brad Cox** reported Saturday that recent Michael G Schaefer Memorial winner **Pioneer Spirit** could enter the 1 1/8-mile contest following his "great" breeze in company with 3-year-old **Owendale**. The duo clipped through five furlongs in 1:00.20.

In the Ack Ack, come-backing 3-year-old **Omaha Beach** is expected to headline the one-mile contest. Trained by Hall of Famer **Richard Mandella**, the Grade I-winning colt was scratched as the morning line favorite from this year's Kentucky Derby (GI) following surgery to repair an entrapped epiglottis. **Julien Leparoux** is scheduled to have the mount.

To nominate, call the Churchill Downs Racing Office: (502) 638-3806.

**DOWN THE STRETCH** – Trainer **Brad Cox** said Saturday that **Rupp Racing's** Ohio Derby (GIII) winner **Owendale** will make his next start in the \$400,000 Oklahoma Derby (GIII) at Remington Park. Owendale breezed five furlongs in 1:00.20 Saturday morning in company with stakes winner **Pioneer Spirit**. ... While trainer **Ian Wilkes** attends the Keeneland September Yearling Sale, his stable at Churchill Downs has been under the watchful eye of Hall of Fame conditioner **Carl Nafzger**. "Ian definitely had to call in the backup while he was at the sale. I'm just glad he still called me," Nafzger joked. ... One of the top stories of the week has been the \$8.2 million Keeneland September Yearling sales topper by **American Pharoah**. The filly, who was listed as hip 498, is out of the former **Bob Holthus**-trained mare **Leslie's Lady**. The filly has a local connection tied to her as trainer **Tim Glyshaw** helped condition Leslie's Lady while he was the assistant to Holthus. "She was an absolutely gorgeous mare every time she shipped to my string," Glyshaw said. "It's no surprise how much success she's having as a yearling with how physically impressive she looked when she was on the racetrack." Leslie's Lady was campaigned mostly in the Midwest and broke her maiden at second asking beneath the Twin Spires. Owner **Mandy Pope** purchased the regally-bred filly. ... On Sunday, Churchill Downs is offering a special "**Stakes and Eggs**" brunch special in the Stakes Room. The \$48 package for adults and \$25 package for children includes a seat in the Stakes Room on the fourth floor of the Clubhouse and all-you-can-eat access to the brunch menu that includes an omelet station, scrambled eggs, biscuits and country gravy, French toast, hot brown, carved country ham, crispy bacon, sausage patties, hash brown potatoes with peppers and onions, fresh fruit, garden vegetables, breakfast breads and a chef's dessert display. ... The 20-cent Single 6 Jackpot was hit by multiple winning tickets Friday and will have a \$1,571 carryover to racing Saturday. The \$1 Super Hi 5 has a carryover of \$1,681 in Race 11. First post is 12:45 p.m.

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